

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 59-74 from the application without prejudice.

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point to form a liquefied embedding medium; and

applying an non-organicimmiscible liquid to the biological sample to separate the liquefied embedding medium from the biological sample[, wherein said non-organicimmiscible liquid has a density greater than that of the liquefied embedding medium].

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the non-organicimmiscible liquid comprises water.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the non-organicimmiscible liquid comprises a detergent.

50. (previously added) The method of claim 49, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

51. (currently amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of Triton X-100 octylphenoxyethoxy(5) ethanol, Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, Brijpolyoxyethelene(23) dodccyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

52. (previously added) The method of claim 47 wherein the embedding medium comprises

paraffin wax.

53. (currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an non-organicimmiscible liquid to a biological sample; and
heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above
the embedding medium's melting point.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the non-organicimmiscible liquid
comprises water.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the non-organicimmiscible liquid
comprises a detergent.

56. (previously added) The method of claim 55, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-
ionic surfactants.

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are
selected from the group consisting of ~~Triton X-100octylphenoxypropylmethoxy (5) ethanol~~,
~~Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan~~, ~~Brijpolyoxyethelene(23)~~, ~~dodecyl ether~~, sodium
dodecylsulfate and saponin.

58. (previously added) The method of claim 53, wherein the embedding medium is paraffin wax.

59-74. (withdrawn)

75. (new claim) The method as claimed in claim 47 wherein said immiscible liquid has a
density different than that of the liquefied embedding medium.

76. (new claim) The method as claimed in claim 53 wherein said immiscible liquid has a density different than that of the liquefied embedding medium.